

HIV/AIDS AMONG CALIFORNIA LATINOS

What you should know:

The Office of AIDS (OA) maintains a confidential, central registry of demographic and clinical information on all reported California HIV and AIDS cases. From the cumulative reported cases for Latinos and HIV/AIDS, we find:

- Latino representation in California has increased steadily in both the general population and among AIDS cases. Since 2005, Latinos have comprised 35 percent of the population and over 35 percent of AIDS cases diagnosed since 2000.
- As of July 31, 2008, California had 180,997 cumulative reported HIV/AIDS cases; of these, 43,510 or 24 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases were Latinos. Additionally, Latinos accounted for nearly 28 percent of all HIV cases reported by name since April 17, 2006.
- Over the past ten years, Latinos have accounted for the largest increase in the number of persons living with AIDS.
- A greater proportion of Latinos are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS at a significantly younger age compared to other racial/ethnic groups.
- Over 55 percent of Latina AIDS cases have been reported with heterosexual contact as the mode of HIV exposure, the highest among all racial/ethnic groups except Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- Nearly three-quarters of all Latino AIDS cases resided in the four California Counties of Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, and Orange at the time of their AIDS diagnosis. Since March 1983, far more Latino AIDS cases have been diagnosed in Los Angeles County than any other county in California.

What we do:

Latinos in California face cultural, geographic, and linguistic barriers that require culturally-specific HIV prevention interventions. To address Latino HIV prevention needs, OA continues to support the work of the Latino Advisory Board (LAB). Currently, there are 23 members on LAB, representing consumers, providers, and researchers. LAB works closely with the Latino community to identify critical HIV/AIDS issues, psychosocial and cultural challenges, as well as programmatic gaps in HIV services that can be addressed through local and statewide efforts.

Through a competitive bid process, OA awarded funding to Project Concern International (PCI) to provide support for the *Latino HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative*.



The goals of the Initiative are to: 1) Increase HIV prevention/care skills and knowledge of health and social service providers that serve Latinos; and 2) improve HIV prevention and care services for Latinos affected by HIV. Through their work with the Initiative, PCI has conducted a statewide needs assessment and also provides capacity building, technical assistance, training, and evaluation. Additionally, PCI works closely with LAB to identify and address regional and statewide concerns that impact Latino education, prevention, treatment, and care.

OA has a dedicated staff position for a Latino HIV Program and Policy Specialist to provide programmatic leadership and consultation for OA Latino projects, as well as direction and oversight for the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Latino HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative.

Research efforts:

OA is a leader in responding to HIV transmission and other issues between Latinos of the United States and Mexico. A Bi-national Border Epidemiological Profile is being developed to assess the current status of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S./Mexico Border Region. The findings will support OA in improving and refining public health program strategies and interventions in the region. OA's history of epidemiological studies and reports related to Latinos and border activities include:

- Report - "An Epidemic Without Borders: HIV/AIDS in California and Mexico," October 2005: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/AIDS/Documents/RPT2005-10BorderRptEng.pdf;
- HIV/AIDS behavioral surveillance among men who have sex with men: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/AIDS/Documents/RPT2007-2787SDBorder2006-11-21.pdf);
- Trans-border Latino women: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/AIDS/Documents/RPT2006-2784TransborderLatinoWomenStudy.pdf;
- Injection drug users (National HIV Behavioral Surveillance); and
- Heterosexuals (National HIV Behavioral Surveillance).



In addition, OA, in collaboration with the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors and other U.S. border states (Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico), is working to develop an epidemiologic profile to increase our understanding of the burden of HIV/AIDS and modes of transmission to better plan for appropriate prevention and care interventions within this geographical region. A report of the epidemiologic profile was drafted in 2007 and publication is anticipated by early 2009.

Helpful resources:

- For information on national data related to Latinos and HIV/AIDS, see: www.cdc.gov/hiv/hispanics/resources/factsheets/hispanic.htm.
- For provider resources to help address needs of HIV patients along the U.S./Mexico border, see: www.aetcborderhealth.org.
- For information about CDPH's Office of Binational Border Health, see: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cobbh/Pages/default.aspx.
- For more information about PCI's technical assistance and capacity building services for the Latino HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative, contact Rosalinda Cano-Hays, Project Director, at (619) 791-2610 extension 313.
- For information on other local HIV/AIDS services, see the *California AIDS Clearinghouse Resource Directory* at: www.hivinfo.org.

- For information about HIV/AIDS, call:
 - *California HIV/AIDS/STD Hotline* at (800) 367-AIDS (2437) (English/Spanish), (888) 225-AIDS (TDD), or see: www.AIDShotline.org.
 - *National AIDS Hotline* at (800) CDC-INFO [(800) 232-4636] or (888) 232-6348 (TTY).

Related Presentations and Publications:

OA-sponsored presentations at the United States Conference on AIDS in November 2007: [A Brief Profile of HIV/AIDS Among Latinos in California \(PPT\)](#);  and [Latino HIV Prevention Efforts \(PPT\)](#). 

Levy V, Page-Shafer K, Evans J, Ruiz J, Morrow S, Reardon J, Lynch M, Raymond HF, Klausner JD, Facer M, Molitor F, Allen B, Green Ajufu B, Ferrero D, Bell Sanford G, McFarland W. HIV-related risk behavior among Hispanic immigrant men in a population-based household survey in low-income neighborhoods of Northern California. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* 2005;32:487-90.

Kropp RY, Montgomery ET, Hill DW, Ruiz JD, Maldonado YA. Unique Challenges to Preventing Perinatal HIV Transmission Among Hispanic Women in California: Results of a Needs Assessment. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 17(1), 22-40, February 2005.

Sanchez MA, Lemp GF, Magis-Rodriguez C, Bravo-Garcia E, Carter S, Ruiz J. The Epidemiology of HIV among Mexican Migrants and Recent Immigrants in California and Mexico. *AIDS* 2004; 37 Supplement 4:S203.

Kropp RY, Sarnquist CC, Montgomery ET, Ruiz JD, Maldonado YA. A Comparison of Perinatal HIV Prevention Opportunities for Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Women in California; *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 18(5):430-443, 2006.

Ritieni A, Moskowitz J, Tholandi M. HIV/AIDS misconceptions among Latinos: findings from a population-based survey of California adults. *Health Education and Prevention*, 35(2):245-59, 2006.

Hidalgo I, Garcia F, Flores A, Castaneda X, Lemp GF, Ruiz JD. Aqui y en el Otro Lado: Los significados socioculturales de la sexualidad y sus implicaciones en la salud sexual de los migrantes mexicanos; *Migraciones Internacionales*, Volume 4, Number 3, January-June, 2008.

The November 1, 2004, JAIDS special Edition "HIV/AIDS among Mexican Migrants and Recent Immigrants in California." This special edition includes five articles in epidemiology in California and in Mexico, prevention, treatment, and policy.